

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, and the Heroes Foundation

Supporting Employment Options for Veterans



Partnership Overview

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Daniel and Salvador Montoya Heroes Foundation (Heroes Foundation) partnered in 2019 to match transitioning Service members (TSMs), Veterans, and their spouses with careers and develop corporate cultures that engage and embrace them. The goal is to pair TSMs, Veterans, and their spouses with companies that are not only Veteran-friendly, but also Veteran-ready.

Accessing employment is one factor known to increase positive health outcomes for TSMs and Veterans. These kinds of factors, known as [social determinants of health](#) (SDOH), are the conditions in which people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. This partnership aims to improve the overall health and well-being of TSMs, Veterans, and spouses by creating opportunities for meaningful employment and directly impacting their access to employers, economic stability, health literacy, and other SDOH.

The Importance of Employment

- Employment is crucial for TSMs, Veterans, and their families as it affects their ability to access many other SDOH, such as enough nutritious food and housing. A [2021 White House report](#) recommends helping Veterans access employment because employment is a pathway to food security, stable housing and finances, and [reducing suicide risk](#), among other benefits.



- VA offers employment resources and [research indicates](#) Veterans of color are more likely to use those programs than their White and non-Hispanic peers. The same research indicated that Veterans with physical health issues were much more likely to utilize VA's employment services.
- Many Veterans and TSMs (such as those with [mental health challenges](#) and those who [are homeless](#)) face additional barriers accessing employment.

VHA Partnership Role and Resources

- Informing Heroes Foundation staff about existing [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) employment resources](#) for Veterans, including the [Transition Assistance Program](#), the [Veteran Readiness and Employment program](#), and [Compensated Work Therapy](#).
- Important Veteran health resources shared with Heroes Foundation staff, such as suicide risk prevention [S.A.V.E. Training](#), the [Veterans Crisis Line](#), and [Maketheconnection.net](#) to empower them to share with employers.
- Sharing VA-sponsored information about how Veterans can receive [career counseling](#), [support for small businesses](#), [education benefits](#), and more with Heroes Foundation staff to empower them to share with employers.
- Access to health care, education, home loans, and other VA [benefits](#) for Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors.

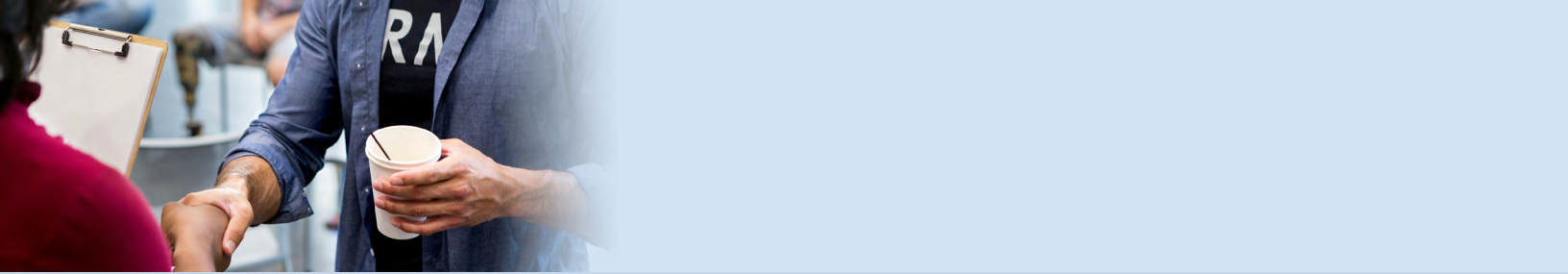


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
National Center for Healthcare
Advancement and Partnerships



Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Advancement and Partnerships



VHA Partnership Roles and Resources *(Continued)*

Heroes Foundation Partnership Role and Resources:

- Virtual [hiring events](#) throughout the year to connect TSMs, Veterans, and spouses nationwide to employers. Part of this work includes creating workshops to help TSMs, Veterans, and spouses with writing resumes, interview advice, developing an ‘elevator pitch,’ and more.
- Direct [collaboration with employers](#) to teach them best practices around Veteran employment and create stronger Veteran-ready recruitment and retention programs.
- [Holiday dinners, toys for kids, and Christmas trees](#) donated to TSMs, Veterans, spouses, and military families in need.

Innovative Strategic Partnerships Facilitated through HAP

HAP’s mission is to serve as a trusted resource and a catalyst for the growth of effective partnerships at the national, state, and community level and advance the health and wellbeing of Veterans through exploration of innovative, safe, and ethical emerging therapies.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, please visit: va.gov/healthpartnerships.

To learn more about the Heroes Foundation, please visit: <https://dsmhf.org/>

VETERAN-FRIENDLY VS. VETERAN-READY

The Heroes Foundation notes the difference between Veteran-friendly and Veteran-ready employers is that ready employers understand the military community, are inclusive and supportive, and offer strong Veteran-centric programs.

For more information, watch this Heroes Foundation webinar by entering the password “jfG.=&A3” at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8448123456>



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